/121 cont./

b) Somatology and Pathology.

113 Vincenzo Petrullo in his book Yaruros of the Capanaparo
162 River (1) has devoted one chapter to the physical characteristics

1. In Anthropological Papers, No. 11, Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 123, pp. 161 to 290.

of the Yaruro. We refer the reader to this work, our own ob-
● 164 servations on this offering nothing very new. Let us add only that all the adults and some children of both sexes have their bodies and particularly the extremities of their limbs covered with white, painful plaques called carare, a fact already noted by Petrullo. According to the Yaruro, beginning with a certain, unspecified age—perhaps corresponding to puberty, for we have never observed it with the newborn and rarely with young children—the skin dries up in places and then loses its pigmenta-
164 tion. Again according to the Yaruro, this phenomenon, which
827 they seem to consider a blemish (they have frequently asked us if a remedy existed to get rid of it), is perhaps transmitted through the blood. When a wife is attacked by carare she infects her husband by pouring a drop of her own blood into his drink so that he will not abandon her.

164 Sanitary conditions among the Yaruro are on the whole extremely indifferent. Tests of blood from swords, carried out by Professor Mayer of the Institute of Hygiene in Caracas, and of blood previously drawn from some of the population reveal signs of severe anemia and very strong eosinophilia.

These Indians all suffer more or less, particularly during the rainy season, from colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, furunculosis, attacks of grippe with fever or marsh fever, headaches, caries and dental abcesses, pains which are doubtlessly rheumatic, and glandular inflammations. The colds, bronchitis, attacks

/121 cont./

● 164 of fever, and especially pneumonia frequently have fatal consequences. We also presume that the Yaruro are attacked by amoebiasis and by ancylostomiasis, the author of these lines having contracted these diseases while living among them. Finally, smallpox apparently attacks them periodically and commits ravages. It seems to have decimated all who lived on the Cinaruco about 20 years ago. Concerning tuberculosis and leprosy we have nothing to report.